

## Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 DHA-02 OPR-02 /043 W  
----- 051002

R 041115Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3989

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR UNN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 1515

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 1223

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: REACTION TO ISRAELI COURT DECISION ON AL-AQSA

1. FEBRUARY 4 NEWSPAPERS CARRY STORIES AND EDITORIALS  
HIGHLY CRITICAL OF REPORTED ISRAELI COURT DECISION TO  
ALLOW JEWISH PRAYER SERVICES TO BE HELD IN AL-AQSA MOSQUE.

2. A COMMITTEE OF LEADING RELIGIOUS FIGURES, CHAIRED  
BY MINISTER FOR RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS NIAZI, "VEHEMENTLY  
CONDEMNED THE FLAGRANT VIOLATION" OF THE MOSQUE AND  
CALLED FOR A PROTEST DAY, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6. THE  
COMMITTEE ALSO URGED ALL MUSLIM COUNTRIES TO TAKE A  
UNITED STAND IN THIS MATTER.

3. EDITORIAL REACTION HAS BEEN RESTRICTED SO FAR TO  
URDU PRESS. IN INTEMPERATE AND SCATHING TONE, EDI-  
TORIALS NOTE THE "SHOCK AND INDIGNATION IN THE ENTIRE  
MUSLIM WORLD," AND DESCRIBE THE COURT DECISION AS  
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"HIGHLY PROVOCATIVE AND CRIMINAL." US IS ALSO CRITI-

CALED IN ONE EDITORIAL WHICH STATES ISRAEL NEVER  
HESITATES TO TAKE ANTI-MUSLIM ACTIONS AS IT IS  
CONFIDENT OF ITS STRENGTH BASED ON AMERICAN SUPPORT.  
(WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE, HOWEVER, THAT SCHEDULED PROTEST  
WILL INVOLVE US INSTALLATIONS OR INDIVIDUAL AMERICANS.)  
GREATEST FLIGHT OF RHETORICAL FANCY IS ONE EDITORIAL  
CLAIM THAT IF STEPS ARE NOT TAKE TO CHECK ISRAELI  
AGGRESSION, GOI WILL FEEL TEMPTED AND ENCOURAGED TO  
"EXTEND ITS FRONTIERS TO MEDINA."

4. PAKISTANIS HAVE PLAYED LEADING ROLE IN CONDEMNING  
WHAT THEY SEE AS ISRAELI DESECRATIONS OF ISLAMIC HOLY  
PLACES. THIS STEMS NOT ONLY FROM CLOSE POLITICAL TIES  
WITH ARAB WORLD BUT ALSO STRONG IDENTIFICATION MOST  
PAKISTANIS FEEL WITH ISLAMIC CAUSES, PARTICULARLY THOSE  
INVOLVING RELIGIOUS SENSIBILITIES. IF PAST REACTIONS  
AND PRESENT EDITORIAL COMMENT ARE ANY INDICATION, WE  
WOULD EXPECT GOP TO CALL FOR MEETING OF ISLAMIC  
SECRETARIAT, AND PERHAPS CALLING ATTENTION OF UN  
DELEGATIONS TO ISSUE, AS WE RECALL IT DID AT TIME OF  
AL-AQSA FIRE AND ISRAELI DECISION TO ALLOW JEWISH  
SERVICES IN TOMB OF ABRAHAM.

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## Message Attributes

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